

MAGPIE,
MAGPIE!





MAGPIE, MAGPIE!

Russian Folk Rhymes




Illustrated by Y. VASNETSOV




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“Magpie, Magpie, tell me, pray,
Where have you been?”



The illustration depicts a whimsical scene in a winter or early spring setting. A squirrel with a large, bushy brown tail is perched on a thin, light blue tree branch in the upper left. It has a surprised or questioning expression, looking down towards the magpie. The magpie, standing on the ground in the lower right, is dressed in human-like clothing: a blue and white plaid vest over a white shirt, and a red skirt with a green and white patterned hem. The magpie has its beak open as if speaking. The background consists of several bare, light blue trees with small green buds, set against a plain white background.



"Far away!
I made a fire,
And I cooked some mush,



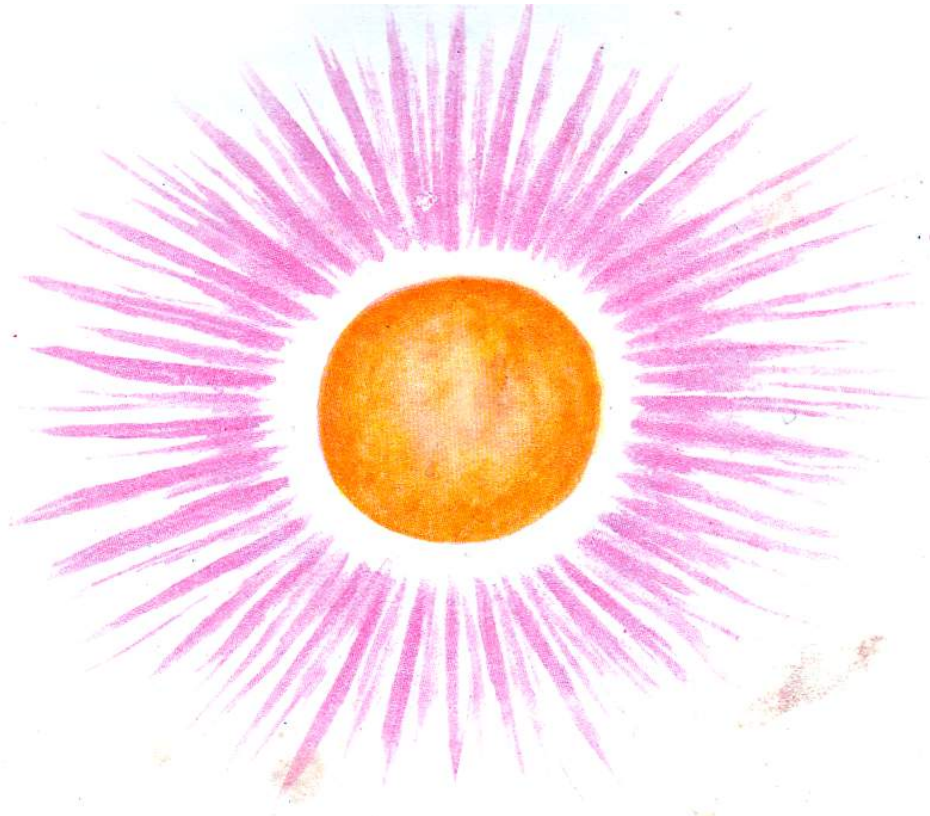




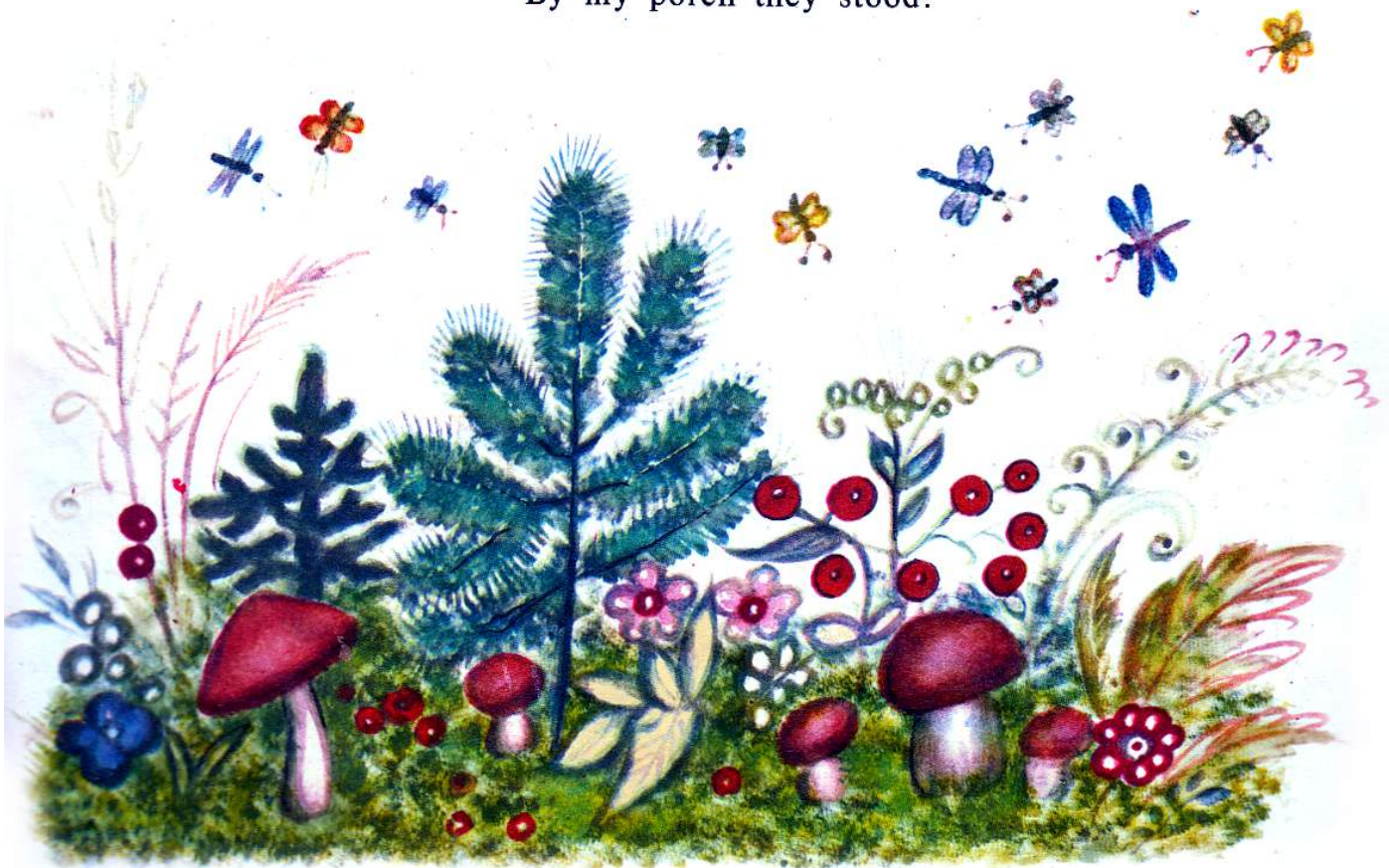
"I called to my friends,
And they came at a rush!"







"A hungry brood,
By my porch they stood.







"The squirrel got some mush
And so did the hare,
The duck and the owl
Each got a share.
But one poor little soul
got none at all:



"He had fetched no water,
He had chopped no wood,
He had made no fire,
He had cooked no food."







Shoo!—and away they flew.
They pecked no bread—
They perched on your head,
And wherever they went—from
west to east—
They told their friends
of the Magpie's feast.



Translated from the Russian
by Irina ZHELEZNOVA



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